

# Meeting Outline

June 16, 2021 | Click [here](#) for online streaming, requests to comment, and committee information.

## Public Utilities, Energy, & Technology Interim Committee

8:30AM – 11:00AM

Anchor location for meeting: 1150 State Office Building, State Capitol Complex, Salt Lake City, Utah

Members of the public are invited to participate [online](#).

### 1. Committee Business

#### Background

- Call to order
- [Draft minutes of the May 18, 2021, meeting](#)

#### Potential Action

- Motion to approve draft minutes of the May 18, 2021, meeting.

### 2. Grid Robustness: Energy Security & Resiliency in Utah 8:30AM – 10:30AM

#### Background

Energy resilience and security is the practice of ensuring a reliable and regular supply of energy. Energy resiliency may require long-term planning and contingency plans to ensure stability in a rapidly changing energy landscape that can be subjected to power surges, weather events, natural disasters, and cybersecurity threats.

This presentation is designed to provide an overview of Utah's energy security, how we can prevent large scale blackouts as witnessed in California and Texas, what consumers need, and how to incorporate renewable energies in a reliable way.

#### NCSL Resources:

- [Securing the Nation's Energy Future: 2019 – 2020 State Legislative Action](#)
- [Cybersecurity and the Electric Grid | The State Role in Protecting Critical Infrastructure](#)
- [Texas Energy Crisis: What is Resilient Power Worth?](#)
- [Energy Emergencies | The State Legislate Role in Planning and Response](#)
- [Modernizing the Electric Grid: State Role and Policy Options](#)
- [Energy Storage for a Modern Electric Grid: Technology Trends and State Policy Options](#)

## Issues

### **Overview**

- What is the status of Utah's overall energy security?
  - What threats exist, if any, to Utah's short- and long-term energy security?
  - What are the greatest risks that Utah's energy infrastructure routinely encounters?
  - Is a state energy security plan in place for man-made concerns?
    - Has Utah experienced cybersecurity threats to the grid?
    - Does Utah have cybersecurity plans in place to deal with threats to the grid?
  - Is a state energy security plan in place for natural hazards?
- In what ways does Utah need to modernize the grid?

### **Blackout Prevention**

- What did we learn about grid resilience from the black and brownouts that occurred in California in 2020 and in Texas in 2021?
- Is Utah equipped to prevent large-scale blackouts like those?
  - If not, are there recommendations for how to become prepared?
- How can we firm up the grid in southern gateway communities to prevent blackouts?

### **Consumer Needs and Grid Resilience**

- What consumer needs are there regarding grid resilience?
- What should be done to ensure certain needs are met to maintain durable, affordable power?

### **Incorporating Reliable, Renewable Energy**

- How can we incorporate more renewable energy and maintain a reliable, durable, and affordable grid system?

## Presenters

- **Thom Carter**, Energy Advisor and Executive Director, Office of Energy Development
- **Thad LeVar**, Chair, Public Service Commission of Utah
- **Chris Parker**, Director, Utah Department of Commerce: Division of Public Utilities
- **Colin Jack**, Chief Operating Officer/Engineering Manager, Dixie Power
- **Jeff Peterson**, Executive Director, Utah Rural Electric Cooperative
- **Mike Squires**, Director of Government Affairs, Utah Associated Municipal Power Systems
- **Michele Beck**, Director, Office of Consumer Services
- **Jon Cox**, Vice President of Government Affairs, Rocky Mountain Power
- **Sarah Wright**, Executive Director, Utah Clean Energy

#### Potential Action

- Request additional information.
- Open a committee bill file.

### 3. Utah Rural Expansion Program

10:30AM – 11:00AM

*Natural Gas Utility Line Updates*

#### Background

In the 2018 General Session, the Legislature passed [H.B. 422 Natural Gas Infrastructure Amendments](#), which allowed the Utah Public Service Commission to authorize Dominion Energy to seek approval to bring natural gas infrastructure to rural communities in Utah.

The current projects include Eureka, Goshen, and Green River. This presentation provides an overview of natural gas utilities in Utah and updates on the Utah Rural Expansion Program.

#### Issues

- What is the Utah Rural Expansion Program?
- What is the availability of natural gas as a utility in rural areas of Utah?
- Have certain natural gas utility lines been extended?
- If not, are there plans to extend natural gas utility lines to serve more areas?

#### Presenters

- **Brad Simons**, Gas Account Manager, Dominion Energy

#### Potential Action

- Request additional information.
- Open a committee bill file.

### 4. Other items/Adjourn